

From Frank Start - VE3AJ, as published in October 1976 High-Q

Did you know?

by Frank Start- VE3AJ

In 1924, a 24 year old Toronto man, Ted Rogers, invented the Alternating Current Tube and revolutionized the world of radio. The new tube enabled the manufacturing of radios which operate on household current instead of the then-cumbersome batteries. Rogers then set up the Rogers Majestic Corporation to produce and market his break-through product, and the first commercial AC tube was made on August 26, 1925. The first "Battery-less" radio was shown a few days later at the Canadian National Exhibition.

The above gives rise to another extract from "Ye Old Log" of VE3AJ. The above note covering the invention of the AC tube could be complimented by noting that Ted Rogers was a well known amateur living in the Newmarket area of Ontario with the call letters 3BP (before the VE come into use). He had one of the more powerful (amateur) spark transmitters in those days and took part in the first amateur Transatlantic Tests in 1922. He was one of the few Canadians who got across on December 11.

Typical of what was heard on the ham bands, or to be correct for the times, amateur wavelengths, was an entry in my log, "QST from 9AW for wavemeter calibration check following signals. There followed test transmissions on various "wavelengths" from 293 to 177 metres". 9AW was another amateur experimental station in Toronto. Such tests were to assist amateurs in adjusting their receivers and transmitters for the Transatlantic Tests.

Another entry on December 22, 1922 reads "To all ARRL stations - All stations broadcast twenty first and twenty second until eight pm listen for British amateurs 190 200 210 440 metres report calls and code by night letter to Hartford Conn insist absolute quiet air beginning twenty third we must copy signals to hold up our ability. F .H. Schnell (ARRL Communications Manager at that time)